



REINVESTING — IN — AMERICA

CHIPPEWA
NATIONAL
FOREST

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



US FOREST SUPERVISOR DARLA LENZ

I am thrilled to be the 19th Forest Supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest. I began my career as a botanist and ecologist both for The Nature Conservancy and

state government. I've worked in a number of positions for the Forest Service, most recently as a district ranger in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where rural communities also rely on public lands for goods and services.

I've primarily lived in the Great Plains, Lake States, and Midwest and am very happy to now add the water and woods of the Chippewa to my expanding homeland. My roots are in Iowa, where I was raised on a farm. This upbringing and my professional background have provided me with some pragmatic skills for communicating our mission and working internally and with our partners in Forest Service communities and beyond. I fully appreciate and believe in the multiple use mission of the Forest Service. I value working with a wide variety of external groups as I believe we manage the important resources of our National Forests best by fully engaging the public.

Impressions of the Chippewa National Forest

The significance of our Forest's history is striking to me. We are the first forest east of the Mississippi, have some of the best preserved historical structures in the agency, and had a significant role developing recreation opportunities early in the 20th century which encouraged the public to enjoy their "new" National Forest. Our past continues to influence our work today. We undertake historical building restoration and preservation at sites such as Camp Rabideau and continue to manage recreation sites developed nearly 100 years ago.

A piece of our Forest's culture that is unique in my experience is our complex relationship with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. This relationship dates back to the creation of the Leech Lake Reservation and the later establishment of the overlapping National Forest. The Chippewa National Forest shares the responsibility of managing the cultural and natural resources within the Leech Lake Reservation. Our commitment to this responsibility is very evident to me. We work hard to balance and complement our management with important traditional resources of the tribe.

I am inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of our employees. They work hard every day out in the forest and in our offices to provide service to the American people. What a great job! We have a wealth of experiences and enthusiastic employees that understand our natural resources and are committed to their management and restoration. Thank you.

I am impressed on a daily basis by our public's great love for the woods, the water, and other resources of the Chippewa. Our communities have strong ties to their public land. This is displayed in the strong partnerships that provide recreation experiences within the forest. In addition, we had overwhelming interest in opportunities to propose projects through the Secure Rural School's Act.

Our Work

In this annual report, watch for articles about the Resource Advisory Committee. The RAC's purpose is to enhance local community collaboration with federal land managers. In 2010, the RAC received 41 proposals for the approximately \$800,000 available to counties within the Forest. Projects will benefit communities by maintaining infrastructure, improving the health of watersheds, and strengthening local economies through funding.

We have highlighted many of our Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects on the Forest as well. Recovery Act funding allowed the Forest to accomplish much needed work in facility maintenance, ecosystem restoration and fuels reduction. From water crossing improvements in the Experimental Forests to trail maintenance in Suomi Hills, Forest employees were committed to the successful completion of these projects.

Looking through the Success Stories of 2010, I see a Forest working across boundaries. We do it naturally. The Chippewa National Forest has an excellent model for accomplishing work with a multitude of partners. Take a moment to read about the Pigeon River Fish Passage Recovery Project titled Travels of a Fish. This project improves the overall health of the Lake Winnie watershed by providing passage for aquatic organisms and has long-term beneficial effects.

PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

On October 3, 2008, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 was reauthorized as part of Public Law 110-343. The new Secure Rural Schools Act has some significant changes. To implement the new law, the Forest Service requested states and counties to elect either to receive a share of the 25-percent rolling average payment or to receive a share of the Secure Rural Schools State (formula) payment. A county electing to receive a share of the State payment that is greater than \$100,000 annually was required to allocate 15 to 20-percent of its share for one or more of the following purposes: projects under Title II of the Act; projects under Title III; or return the funds to the Treasury of the United States.

On January 15, 2009 the Forest Service began distributing more than \$477 million to 41 states and Puerto Rico for improvements to public schools, roads and stewardship projects. These payments include 25% payments, special acts payments and Secure Rural Schools Act State

payments. Under the Secure Rural Schools Act an additional \$52 million was made available to be used for projects recommended by local resource advisory committees to maintain infrastructure, improve the health of watersheds and ecosystems, protect communities, and strengthen local economies.

Seven counties in Minnesota received a total of \$12,745,834 from the Forest Service in 2010. Thye-Blatnik numbers apply to Superior National Forest wilderness only. On the Chippewa National Forest, a total of approximately \$800,000 was brought to the Resource Advisory Committee.

SUPERIOR	PILT	SRS	SRS Title II Funds	Thye-Blatnik	TOTAL
Cook	\$210,829	\$690,080	\$55,206	\$2,025,000	\$2,981,115
Koochiching	\$9,781	\$89	\$0	\$0	\$9,870
Lake	\$239,788	\$649,978	\$552,480	\$2,512,500	\$3,954,746
St. Louis	\$1,073,923	\$748,831	\$59,906	\$1,612,500	\$3,495,160
CHIPPEWA	PILT	SRS	SRS Title II Funds		TOTAL
Cass	\$428,262	\$467,712	\$70,156		\$966,130
Itasca	\$411,719	\$603,660	\$90,549		\$1,105,928
Beltrami	\$78,581	\$134,178	\$20,126		\$232,885
Total					\$12,745,834

2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



TIMBER

Harvested (Million Board Feet)	35,727
Reforestation	2,222
Timber Stand Improvement	1,177
Fuelwood Permits (\$20)	79
Christmas Tree Permits	176
Bough Permits	42



HUMAN RESOURCES

Senior Employment	23
Volunteers	166
Youth Conservation Corps/MCC	7/10
Full Time Employees	108
Summer Visitor Centers	10,839
Conservation Ed Programs	284



FIRE AND FUELS

Prescribed Burns (#Fires/Acres)	9 / 1,135
Wildfires (#Fires/Acres)	49 / 232
Hazardous Fuels Reduced (Acres)	1,928
Hazardous Fuels (non-WFHF Acres)	5,158



WILDLIFE

Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced (Acres)	5017
Inland Streams Enhanced/Restored (Miles)	20
Inland Lakes Enhanced/Restored (Acres)	100
Soil Water Resource Improved (Acres)	704



LANDS

Right-Of-Way Cases	1
Special Use Permits (Total)	665
Land Acquisition (Acres)	2.5
Mineral Permits (Issued)	16
Total Nat'l Forest Acres	666,536
Boundary Management (Miles)	16
Total Acreage within Boundary	1,599,611



ROADS AND TRAILS

Road Maintenance (Miles)	616.05
Road Improved (Miles)	86.4
Road Decommissioned (Miles)	15
Trails Maintained to Standard (Miles)	192
Roads Open to OHV (Seasonal Miles)	1,345

RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

As you read through the 2010 Chippewa National Forest Annual Report, you will see seven separate articles on many of the Recovery Act projects completed in FY 2010. The Chippewa Forest Completed all 15 of the Recovery and Reinvestment projects awarded. Read on!

**GOING TO CAMP RABIDEAU
ROADS GET A FACELIFT (2 PROJECTS)
NEW CREW OF FIREFIGHTERS
BUNKHOUSE BLUES**

**TRAVELS OF A FISH (2 PROJECTS)
108 MILES OF IMPROVED TRAIL!
WALKER CULVERTS**

Other Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects not listed as full articles include:

LIFT PUMP AT NORWAY BEACH



\$46,000 to replace the pump, piping, electrical panel and install a monitoring device for the heavily used Norway Beach Recreation Area sewer treatment facility.

RESTROOM REPLACEMENT



\$242,000 to replace nine vault toilets located at boat ramps, fishing access points, campgrounds, Camp Rabideau and Shingobee Recreation Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



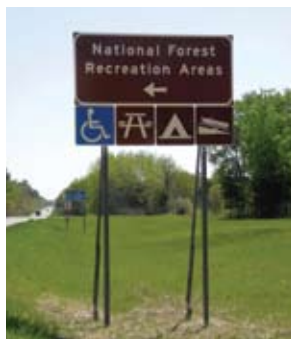
Hazardous Materials coordinators on each national Forest in Region 9 analyze the current state of the Forest HazMat program.

WASTEWATER CONSULTANT



Reviewed and Updated the Operations and Management manual for Wastewater Treatment on the Forest.

MOTORIZED USE SIGNING



\$106,881 to upgrade regulatory signs to the new retro-reflectivity requirements. Signing includes rail crossings, travel management (OHV), boat access, hunter walking trails and forest information signs.

DATABASE ENTRY ASSISTANCE



Included mapping and measuring Chippewa National Forest trails for inclusion in a national database.

RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

Each year, the Chippewa National Forest Annual Report includes a section on payments to counties. The Secure Rural Schools Act offers counties the ability to reserve a portion of their distribution for national forest Title II projects. Under the Secure Rural Schools Act, an additional \$800,000 (approximately) was made available to counties within the Chippewa National Forest to be used for projects recommended by a local Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Projects to maintain infrastructure, improve the health of watersheds, and strengthen local economies will be funded through the RAC.

The Chippewa RAC's purpose is to enhance local community collaboration with federal land managers by jointly proposing, reviewing, and recommending proposed projects that will benefit resources on National Forest System lands in Beltrami, Cass and Itasca counties.

The Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met for the first time in October 2010. The committee was formally appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack this summer and meets as authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Public Law 110-343) and in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Project proposals for the advisory committee had a deadline of March 2011. At least 50% of the RAC's funds must be used for projects that are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration, or restoration of streams and watersheds. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Watershed restoration
- Maintenance of roads or trails
- Fuels reduction
- Improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Improvement of soil productivity
- Control of invasive plants
- Re-establishment of native species
- Enhancement of national forest recreation sites

The RAC will review all proposals and forward approved projects to the Chippewa National Forest Supervisor. The authority to initiate Title II projects terminates on September 30, 2011, and funds need to be obligated by September 30, 2012.

THE BEST BLUEBERRY YEAR

For blueberry lovers, 2010 proved to be one of the best blueberry years that northern Minnesotans can remember! The Blueberry bush, miinagaawanzh in Ojibwe, has always been an important plant to Anishinabe people in northern Minnesota. The Chippewa National Forest and Leech Lake Band have worked together to improve blueberry habitat conditions. One key to success is knowing where to find the blueberries! During the summer of 2010, Chippewa employees successfully mapped the probability of blueberry occurrence on the Chippewa National Forest.

The blueberry map is based on the statistical analysis of 1400 releve plots. (Releve plots are permanently marked sample areas where data is regularly collected.) Of those 1400 plots, 500 had blueberry plants present. The analysis primarily used soil data, covering the entire forest and spanning all ownerships. In the study, certain characteristics were identified as having influence over the presence or absence of blueberries at the plots. From this work, Forest staff could create a map showing...basically, where the blueberries grow on the Chippewa National Forest.

Blueberry picking is much more than just a fun recreational activity on the Chippewa National Forest. Enhancing blueberry production is one way to help sustain Ojibwe traditional practices. When the Chippewa National Forest provides mitigations for ground disturbing activities, the Leech Lake Band is often interested in what the Forest can do to sustain blueberry and other culturally important ground plants. This project, using statistical data and releve plots is an example of applying management tools creatively to support work with partners.

The blueberry mapping project was a cooperative project with Bemidji State University. The next step will be to look at factors such as light and canopy, tree species, large openings, and prescribed burning. The map will be helpful to the fire program in achieving multiple objectives, including enhancement of blueberry habitat.



GOING TO CAMP...RABIDEAU!

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Rabideau has been jumping with activity in 2010. Youth work readiness programs, volunteer contributions and building reconstruction continue to bring Rabideau to life!

Camp Rabideau is the site of youth work readiness and educational programming throughout the whole year. Youth participating in the Camp Rabideau Summer Youth Program learn teamwork, leadership and hands on gardening and solar heating construction. During the school year, participants in the Rabideau Conservation Corps program work on natural resource and construction projects while continuing toward a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED). Success is due to partnerships with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; the Conservation Academy and Learning Conservation Board; Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program; Cass Lake- Bena, Blackduck, and Bemidji School Districts and the Chippewa National Forest.

The Forest was awarded 1.5 million dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to invest in selected reconstruction work on historic buildings at Camp Rabideau. The local small business contractor - Earth Works (owned by the Red Lake Nation)- has been working closely with Forest engineers, archeologists, and a crew of Forest employees, successfully fulfilling the many contract requirements. Buildings are stabilized with new



foundations, rafters, roofs and sides - all staying within the legal expectations of the National Historic Landmark status standards.

Volunteers are passionate about Camp Rabideau and donate many hours toward supporting the activities.

Volunteers are passionate about Camp Rabideau and donate many hours toward supporting the activities. In the summer of 2010, the Barrington, Illinois Rotary Club teamed up with the Bemidji Area Sunrise Rotary Club to work with Rabideau Conservation Corps youth. Rotary members intend to establish a long term partnership with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Forest Service to benefit local young people. Other individual volunteers glazed and painted windows and chimney stacks as well as installing new siding.

This past summer, over 450 individual visitors from three countries and tour groups from across the U.S. came to learn about CCC camp life. In the winter of 2010-2011, the Rabideau Conservation Corps youth will continue to work and learn at Camp Rabideau while reconstruction moves forward. Planning for next year's youth programming, construction, visitors and volunteers also begins. It is an exciting time to be a part of Camp Rabideau!



ROADS GET FACELIFT

The network of roads in an Experimental Forest provides researchers access to ongoing studies such as long term soil productivity, red pine management, and carbon sequestration. There are three Experimental Research Forests on the Chippewa National Forests, all established between 1932 and 1960.

In 2010, Recovery Act funding provided for road maintenance and water crossing improvements within the Pike Bay, Cut Foot Sioux, and Marcell Experimental Forests. Work entails clearing, mowing, shaping and gravel resurfacing of many miles of roads in and around the Experimental Forests. The goal is to restore roads to a condition similar to when first constructed. Through a partnership agreement with Leech Lake Tribal Roads Department, crews completed 39.4 miles of road improvements within the Pike Bay and Cut Foot Experimental Forests. Clearing, mowing, shaping, culvert installation and gravel resurfacing was completed on 6.3 miles within the Marcell Experimental Forest.

A second part of this Recovery Act project included culvert replacement of structures on three water crossings on the Eagles Nest Road in the Cut Foot Experimental Forest. These crossings were identified as posing issues to Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP).



The Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Recovery Act project was proposed by the Forest Service Research Station in St. Paul and implemented by the Chippewa National Forest. These crossings were identified as barriers to Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP).

GARLIC MUSTARD BEWARE

On a cool spring day in May, Forest biologists and seven students from the Rabideau Conservation Corps and Camp staff tried a new method in the fight against garlic mustard.

The plan was to install a black plastic barrier on an infestation of garlic mustard near Onigum, Minnesota that affects both Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) tribal lands and national forest land. The infested site, along a power line corridor, was first cleared of woody vegetation and debris. Then, the plastic was unrolled and staked to the ground over a portion of the garlic mustard infestation. The hope

is that the black plastic, combined with the summer sun will create enough heat to kill the bank of garlic mustard seeds that exists on this infestation. This method is a lot less labor intensive than the usual hand pulling of garlic mustard. The key to successful eradication of garlic mustard is to remove the blooming plants before they go to seed from April through June and kill the first year plants so they will not bloom next spring. The process is long-term, needing yearly maintenance as the seeds are viable for up to seven years. The partners accomplished a big first step to invading the invasive garlic mustard.



Garlic mustard is a biennial herb of the mustard family. It is highly invasive in undisturbed forest communities. It directly threatens many native species of the forest floor and inhibits reproduction of forest trees.

NEW CREW OF FIREFIGHTERS

In 2010, the Leech Lake Band recognized the need to build their capacity and increase natural resource work skills, exposing Band members to local job opportunities. The Forest foresaw a future need for trained wildland firefighters in a changing workforce.

Thanks to the Recovery Act, ten members of the Leech Lake Band were recruited and trained as firefighters. Five additional individuals were employed as a crew focused on fuels reduction work on the national forest and with other agencies.

In 2010, the Forest and Leech Lake Band received a grant through the FS Hazardous Fuels-Federal Assistance program. The Band purchased a skid steer machine and hired two operators on a fuels reduction project near the tribal community of Ball Club. These assets were also available to assist the Leech Lake Firefighter crew towards an initial goal of 150 acre of fuels reduction work.

In addition to completing fuels reduction work, the crew also earned acres toward their goal by assisting at a large wet meadow landscape prescribed burn, jointly conducted by 5 cooperating agencies. The opportunity to use their skills and coordinate with other seasoned firefighters opened new possibilities.



With the success of the partnership in 2010, additional Recovery Act funds were awarded to extend their employment beyond the Minnesota fire season. The crew worked through the winter of 2010-2011, adding 220 acres of fuels reduction projects, including thinning and cutting ladder fuels. In 2011, blueberry habitat restoration work and stewardship contracts will be proposed through similar partnerships with Leech Lake Band.

BUNKHOUSE BLUES

Ask anyone who has worked seasonally for the Forest Service about their seasonal housing, they will have an adventurous story for you.



In the past, living in seasonal housing on the Chippewa National Forest meant three basic choices. An old 1940's ranger house or decaying trailer at Blackduck (both in the back yard of the District office) or the 1950's style ramblers at Cut Foot Sioux, complete with friendly mice and creaking floors. It's the reason many employees this summer were happy to see those old buildings removed and new, efficient, accessible bunkhouses brought in.

At Blackduck, the trailer and ranger house were removed from the administrative site and replaced with a "R9 standard" modular bunkhouse - a design which has been used successfully several times on the Superior National Forest. On the Deer River district, a modular bunkhouse was brought in the Deer River administrative site. (Existing crew houses will be removed from the Cut Foot area in 2012.) The two new bunkhouses are universally accessible, energy efficient, and will help accommodate the Chippewa National Forest's annual temporary workforce. What will our 2011 seasonal workforce talk about now? The great summer opportunities and resources found on the Forest!



TRAVELS OF A FISH

If you were given an assignment to help spawning fish move through an escapement channel, where would you start? For Forest engineers, a solution was as close as the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The result of that partnership is a 15-foot wide channel at the Pigeon Lake Impoundment connecting water and fish to the north shore of Lake Winnibigoshish.

The Pigeon River Fish Passage Recovery Act project was included in the Upper East Winnie Environmental Assessment decision signed in August 2009. The goal was to naturalize the channel and provide a flow of water suitable for fish traveling upstream.

In July 2010, with a family of trumpeter swans watching, 4000 tons of rock was hauled in over three weeks. Delicately,

the backhoe operator placed each rock in the passage and visually there was rapid change and improvement everyday! The existing inlet structures were removed and replaced with eight rock weirs that were strategically placed to ensure fish passage. (A weir is a small overflow dam used to alter the flow characteristics of a river or stream. In most cases weirs take the form of a barrier across the river but still allow water to flow over the top.)

From one weir to the next, there is a gradual drop in elevation to reach the final water elevation level. The new passage slows the current flow from six cubic feet per second (cfs) to three cfs so that fish can navigate more easily to the impoundment. As grasses re-establish themselves between the rocks, the banks of the Pigeon River will appear as a natural flowing stream bank.

DID YOU KNOW The Chippewa National Forest has approximately 45 impoundments that are maintained by the LLBO and the USFS.

The Pigeon River Fish Passage project will help improve the overall health of the Lake Winnie watershed by providing passage for all aquatic organisms which include northern pike, walleye, yellow perch and forage fish. Long-term, the project may also increase fish populations throughout this area.

MAINTAINING TRAILS

With almost three feet of snow on the ground, and dedicated recreation staff grooming each week, it's easy to see why the Shingobee and Sumoi Trail systems were popular sites this winter! But there is actually more to the beautiful trails than just amazing snow fall. The unseen heroes of the season's trails is the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Leech Lake Band Tribal employment Program.

Through funding from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Walker Ranger District and Leech Lake Band Tribal Employment Program, completed 108 miles of trail maintenance across the Forest. The work focused on deferred trail maintenance in the Shingobee Recreation and Goose Lake Hunter-Walking Trail system near Walker. The crew also worked on the Suomi Hills and Meadow Lake trails near Marcell. Goals for the trails project included job training for the participants while accomplishing much needed trail maintenance work in these well-known recreation areas.

Conservation Corps of Minnesota employs youth ages 18-23 and draws applicants from across the state. Two CCM

crews completed 72 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail, 21 miles of trail in the Suomi Hills area 10 miles of trail on Meadow Lake. Crews also created a new boardwalk on the Meadow Lake system.

The Temporary Employment program provides workers 2-3 weeks of transitional employment. The Leech Lake Temporary Employment program will maintain approximately 20 miles of trail. TEP employees are trained in safe chainsaw use and maintenance, erosion control, invasive species control and trail signing.

As you ski along the Suomi Trails next winter, take a moment to appreciate the scenery, the trail, and the hard work of crews this summer that brought this great experience to you! Good outdoor experience for you... good work experience for the crews...great partnerships for the Forest Service.



WALKER CULVERTS

Read up on the Chippewa National Forest, and you will see a commonly repeated fact—the Chippewa National Forest is over half water! Because the Chippewa is a “water-based forest” with 25 major watersheds and over 2000 miles of roads, good culvert design and placement is critical for maintaining water flow and habitat function.

Nine culverts were identified as barriers to aquatic organisms trying to migrate upstream as part of the Walker Culvert Recovery Act Project. The culvert locations were widely dispersed across Walker and Deer River Districts. A contractor installed culverts up to 96 inches in diameter, improving the hydrologic connectivity that benefits fisheries in many of the lakes and streams in northern Minnesota. As part of the project, three impoundment structures were de-commissioned at Six Mile, Sucker Bay and Amik Impoundments, helping restore adjacent wetlands.

The Walker Culvert project took only 19 days to complete and improves the overall health of the Upper Mississippi watershed by providing passage for aquatic organisms. The total cost of this Recovery Act project was \$165,050, and employed nearly



a dozen people. Thousands of fish and aquatic organisms will appreciate the difference in this water-logged forest! With funds from the Recovery Act, Chippewa National Forest engineers worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County Highway Department and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to identify national forest sites with undersized culverts.

A NEW HOME

Site maps and building plans hang on the wall in the Walker Ranger District meeting room. Samples of roofing materials and flooring sit on the table with comments across everything. After years of planning, construction of a new Walker Ranger District office has begun! During the summer of 2010, the first phase of a major reconstruction of the Walker Ranger District administrative site was set in motion. The project will be completed in phases to allow the site to remain operational as a Forest Service Ranger District office during construction.

The first phase of work included the demolition and relocation of several existing buildings, installation of new site utilities, and rough grading of the site in preparation for the final phase of the project. Phase 2 is expected to begin in the summer of 2011 and continue through 2012. Visitors will be welcomed in to a new information center. New offices, warehouse, tree nursery building, vehicle garages, and crew quarters for summer seasonal employees will all be in place. The transition of the next two years becomes a challenge district staff welcome in order to see those plans on the wall move to finished product.

Among many changes in store, the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce will share the building's new information center. The information center will allow both the Forest Service and the Chamber to better serve the community and visiting public. District staff are also working closely with the City of Walker and the Shingobee Trail Taskforce on the possible future use of the site as a trailhead for the planned Shingobee Connection paved bicycle trail. The partners continue in their efforts to secure funding for a proposed highway underpass connection between the new office and the paved trail and adjacent City Park. The underpass would connect the new Walker Ranger District to over 160 miles of state and federal paved trails.



We look forward to sharing our new office with you soon!

RECLAIMING A GEM

In the late 1930's, advocates of the recreation movement encouraged people to get outdoors, and promoted increased use of our National Forests. An added emphasis on the use of rustic architecture in national forest settings also grew.

As part of the New Deal program, organizational camps such as the one at Ruby Lake located 25 miles north of Grand Rapids, were built to provide facilities that could accommodate a large number of people at a low cost. Many of these facilities were run by nonprofit youth organizations and provided boys and girls from low income groups an opportunity to have access to public lands for recreation purposes.

Built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Ruby Lake camp was operated as a seasonal residential camp by the Minneapolis Girl Scout Council. Because of their efforts, thousands of young girls from urban areas across Minnesota experienced overnight hikes, campfire cooking, photography, nature lore and the beauty of the "North Woods". However, in December of 1995 the Girl Scout Council decided not to renew their special use permit for Ruby Lake Camp.

In 1995, operation of the camp went to a new permit holder. By 2004, a number of safety issues were identified

in the old buildings and from hazard trees. This led to restricted residential use of the camp, meaning day use only of the lodge and dining hall, beach, ball field and waterfront. In 2007, a decision was made not to renew the temporary special use permit to the lease holder and to take a more proactive approach to addressing safety issues.

Recognizing the historical and aesthetic value of the Ruby Lake Camp, Deer River Ranger District staff took on the challenge of managing repairs and making the site safe for a new lease holder. "District Clean-up" days were scheduled and employees gathered to clean out the buildings and clear away debris and branches. A new lease holder then took on the challenge and, with the help of over 100 volunteers, continued progress on building and other safety issues. In the summer of 2010, Camp Ruby welcomed a new group of kids and became a true "win-win" situation. The Forest Service had limited funding for the kinds of repairs that were needed at the camp, but since the involvement of the new lease holders, the Camp Ruby legacy of introducing youth to the outdoors continues.

Built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Ruby Lake camp was operated as a seasonal residential camp by the Minneapolis Girl Scout Council.



FOREST EVENTS SCHEDULE

JANUARY

National Winter Trails Day, Ice Rescue Training

FEBRUARY

Shingobee Hills Family Days, Shingobee Winter Jam (Walker)
Candlelight Ski (Deer River)

MARCH

High School and College Career Fairs (Careers with US Forest Service)

APRIL

Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Fire Prevention Week

MAY

Celebrating Wildflowers, Walleye Fishing Opener, Visit Centers Open

JUNE

National Fishing & Boating Week, National Public Lands Day, Chippewa Triathlon
National Get Outdoors Day

JULY

Bald Eagle Day, Butterfly Festival (VIC's) and Ladyslipper Celebrations (NWB)

AUGUST

Smokey Bear's Birthday

SEPTEMBER

National Public Lands Day,

OCTOBER

Howl O Ween (Shingobee Hills)

NOVEMBER

Deer Hunting Season
Get your maps at FS Offices

DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Permits available